THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) At present, of the Central Sector power generating companies, the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) supplies power directly to bulk consumers within its area and by arrangement with the State Electricity Boards to such consumers even outside its area. The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has entered into a similar arrangement with the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) and the Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board (UPSEB) for direct supply of power from NTPC's gas based plant at Auraiya in U.P. to GAIL. Therefore, there are, no adverse implications for the SEBs concerned.

In addition, after careful consideration, Government has also agreed, in principle, to allow direct sale of power by Central Power Generating Companies to the Railways, in relation to the unallocated central share (15%) of power from the central stations.

(c) State Government have been advised to undertake measures such as rationalised tariff, regular payment of rural electrification subsidy, improvement in Plant Load Factor, reduction in T&D losses, etc., to improve the finances of the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) and to reduce their losses. The conference of the Power Ministers held on 8th and 9th January, 1993, also discussed the ways and means to improve the performance of SEBs, both in physical and financial terms, and has adopted an Action Plan which includes, inter-alia, liquidation of arrears of subsidy in a phased manner, reduction in outstanding dues, tariff rationalisation, fixation of minimum agricultural tariff, supply of electricity on metered basis, etc.

Setting up a Lignite based Power Project in Gujarat

1537. SHRI AHMED MOHMEDBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Israel's 'Esienberg' Company has offered to put up a 250 MW lignite-based power project in the State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has accepted the offer;

(c) what is the total investment to be made on the project;

(d) whether the location of the power unit has been decided;

(e) if so, by when the project is likely to be set up; and

(f) to what extent it will be helpful in meeting the power shortage in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Gujarat has accepted the proposal 'in principle'.

(c) The Project cost has not been indicated by the promoters so far.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) The Project is likely to be completed in about 4 years from the date of placement of order for main plant and equipment.

(f) To the extent of 250 MW.

Resource Crunch Faced by NTPC

1538. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NTPC is facing resource crunch;

(b) if so, what is the additional fund estimated to be required by the NTPC;

(c) whether Government have extended the financial help in time to enable the NTPC to go ahead with the on-going project; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) For new projects of the National Thermal Power Corpn. (NTPC) fund availability is a constraint due to non-payment of dues by State Electricity Boards (SEBs).